

ABSTRACT

In accordance with the invention, there are provided methods, capsules, and  
5 delivery systems useful in preparing biological containment systems with properties  
(e.g., mechanical strength, capsule permeability and porosity, desired controlled  
release rates of the biologic or components secreted by the biologic, and  
immunoreactivity) that can be varied to adapt to a broader range of physiological  
conditions than known biological containment systems. There are also provided  
10 methods of making capsules containing cell aggregates therein, as well as the capsules  
formed thereby, which are useful as a quantitatively plentiful and low cost alternative  
to usage of freshly harvested cell aggregates (e.g., islets from pancreas), since the  
latter are usually available only in limited numbers.

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